

# RECEIVE THE STRIKER OR STRIKE THE CENTER

## Stars of Game Only Ones to Tackle Rising Ball—Service Should Be Taken at Top of Bound.

**BY MAURICE E. McLOUGHLIN,**  
America's Greatest Tennis Player.

In receiving in general I endeavor to take the service to the top of its bound, or just before. The higher the ball is the more command you have of the opposite court.

Brookes and Williams are the two great players who by preference play a rising ball; that is, a ball that has not reached the top of its bound, and I emphasize this method I emphatically do not advocate for the average player. To attain such accuracy as that of Brookes or Williams in this respect requires not only a marvellously true eye, but besides long years of faithful practice. The average player's ball on its rise has no time for deliberation. Accuracy must become a matter of second nature, but when once achieved it gives him a tremendous advantage over his opponent. He is enabled to return a service before his rival can get to the service line, and he catches the server midway of the court and at a disadvantage.

Melville H. Long, my teammate, and I in our early matches with Brookes were kept constantly volleying "off our ankles." No other player against me has been able to do this. I have never so persistently out of the great Australian did then.

Naturally, I have to take a great many balls on the backhand, but in a match game a player should always need to play with a rising ball, generally is on his forehand, except in the case of a left hander, who practices just the opposite. The average player neglects his forehand in past years because of his greater backhand proficiency. It is a very common and great mistake to "run around" the service, as it coddles your probable weakness.

**The Matter of "Top."**

One should always be up on one's toes to facilitate a quick and well-balanced shifting of position. The racket is generally cradled in the left hand for a like reason. I set my racket well enough back to not come loose on the return, and also impart a certain amount of "top" to it. This makes the ball harder to volley, because of its spin, and also makes it more difficult to return. But I must repeat that it is well for the average player to have a rising ball, and to play "top," and to strive primarily to meet the ball squarely with the middle of the racket.

The practice is to take the ball at the top of its bound—and this is by all means the better choice—the upper edge of the racket is used to play in advance of the lower if the bound is of any height, the racket should be slightly turned over to the right, the resulting stroke is, in general direction, forward, and any rise on the ball must be due to the spin imparted.

The placing of a return should never be sacrificed to pace and "top." Your racket should be swung back to the opponent's style of play, the opportunities open to you at the moment, and other varying factors. Above all, let there be no hesitation about what you do.

Your best play might be to drive the ball down the center line, and to catch it about at his feet as he runs in, or to serve over his head if he is in fast. If all depends on the return, your opponent may have a particularly deadly backhand; he may be very swift to follow his service in to the net; his racket may be very strong, and he may, right or vice versa. First of all, make sure of meeting the ball squarely with determination, and some purpose, whatever it may be.

**Greatest Problem in Receiving.**

The greatest problem in receiving, however, is not the return, but the service of the bound of the ball that your opponent intends to use; it is primarily the direction that his service will take. If you have an inkling of this beforehand, it is an invaluable asset in getting yourself "set" for the return. And here I have reached upon one of the most important attributes of the tennis player who wishes to go beyond the average stage must possess, that of anticipation. The service and first return are really a duel for this prized position.

In closing, the baseline game is almost wholly a bygone in fast play. The service is the key to the game, and the "volley" is the necessity for the striker-outs no less than the service, to get to the net, and the service is really a duel for this prized position.

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President E. H. Ladd of the Dumbarton Club, who has been in charge of the junior championship tennis tournament which has just ended, is receiving congratulations from all sides on the success of the event. Viewed from every angle, the revival of the tennis tournament, which was held in 1909, after discovering that the tennis courts were not in good condition, was a marked success, and its continuance on the annual sports calendar is assured. As a matter of fact, the District championship tennis carries with it more than that of any other tennis event, and for this reason the event has taken better drawn more entries and means more than those of most cities. Washington is, of course, because it is a seat of government, made up of a large floating population, which comes and goes with the seasons. The runner-up in the singles event, for instance, is the son of Representative Falconer of Washington. His parents left for the last possible instant of the event, leaving the youngster to remain here until the completion of the event. Many other of the entrants were sons of members of Congress and others who are called here by the government for a few days or a week or a year. Another feature which served to make the tournament attractive was the high quality of play shown. Many of the best racketeers of the city were among the gallery at different times, and all agreed that it was not only a very high quality of play, but that the youngsters were almost equals. So many requests were made for a return match that an event with a thirteen or fourteen year limit that it is quite possible that their return match will be played in the near future.

In reporting the results of the closed tennis tournament now being played at the Dumbarton Club, the statement was erroneously made that Spencer Gordon was defeated in the semi-final round by G. M. Noel. The correct result was the semi-final round by G. M. Noel. The correct result was the semi-final round by G. M. Noel.

**Theory Does Not Always Work.**

I think that most students of the time believe in the "center" theory, viz., playing the center of the court to lessen the angle of return. But its practical application never works out equally well with all opponents—at least such has been my own experience. A very striking instance of this occurred in the matches against Brookes and Williams. Against the latter, the "center" theory was invaluable in enabling me, at the net, to reach his backhand strokes. Against Brookes, however, I cannot remember once being conscious of it. Still less, I am inclined toward this theory in the service. As I thought I had already mentioned, the complete control of direction for both center and sidelines is of vastly greater importance.

In singles, therefore, the "center" theory is of little value, for naturally the striker-out cannot make effective use of it unless his opponent stands in the center of the court. Even if he does, I am a believer in more variation of the return, and it doubles a great many more shots are played down the center than in singles. This is not necessarily mean more frequent application of the "center" theory, for more often you play down the center than in singles. This is not necessarily mean more frequent application of the "center" theory, for more often you play down the center than in singles.

# INTERCOLLEGE BASEBALL GAME BY AMHERST JUST FIFTY SIX YEARS AGO

Intercollegiate base ball is just fifty-six years old. The first game ever played was between Amherst and Williams colleges, at Pittsfield, Mass., July 1, 1859. Amherst won, 73 to 32, and of the winning team, on which there were thirteen players, not more than two are alive today. Marshall B. Cushman, an examiner in the patent office, was relief pitcher and played second base on the victorious team. As far as he knows, F. E. Tower of the class of '60 from Amherst is the only other still living. The latter is a clerkman in Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

The game grew out of a proposition made by J. T. Clafin at a meeting of the college directors, who, meeting prayers, at which Mr. Smead of the senior class presided. The proposition was that "Amherst challenge Williams to a friendly game of ball, to be played at some intermediate spot on or before July 1." This was passed with a majority. The following committee was selected to make arrangements: J. T. Clafin, senior class; Walker, Thompson, freshman. A challenge was immediately sent and accepted, for which Amherst sent a delegation to meet June 27. A delegation from Williams was to meet one from Amherst at Chester factory and draw up rules and regulations for the contest.

Mr. Hyde, representing Amherst, met the delegates from Williams, and after a long conference, an agreement was reached. After Mr. Hyde returned to Amherst negotiations were carried on for two weeks by mail, until the final arrangement was made. The principal of which were:

Each side should use its own ball. The ball must be caught on the fly. Sixty-five runs should be the limit of the game. The date was set for July 1, 1859, at Pittsfield, Mass. The game was to be played on the field of the Pittsfield base ball club which was accepted.

In the anticipation of the contest, Amherst was not one cloud as far as Amherst was concerned. All of Williams College, including the faculty, were present. The Amherst team would be sending only the regular team and four substitute players.

**Williams Well Represented.**

When the historic day arrived all Williamstown seemed to have exulted over the occasion. College boys by the hundred, portly dames and bewhiskered farmers, blushing maidens and their self-conscious swains. This great event of the year, and even after the time of the visit of the great American, the Williams team was well represented. The Williams team was well represented. The Williams team was well represented.

The postmortem. This week's schedule calls for three matches. Tomorrow, Potomac and the Benedictines will meet in the morning at 10 o'clock. The game will be played on the field of the Williams team. The game will be played on the field of the Williams team.

**What a Sportsman Does Not Do.**

As to general atmospheric conditions, the wind and weather are of no account in affecting one's game, but in match play these elements are rarely utilized by a true sportsman against his opponent, and, furthermore, the rules of the game as far as possible tend to equalize any such advantage. The wind and weather are of no account in affecting one's game, but in match play these elements are rarely utilized by a true sportsman against his opponent, and, furthermore, the rules of the game as far as possible tend to equalize any such advantage.

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herst was undoubtedly much superior. The ball was within his reach, and very few were allowed to drop which he touched. The whole game, which was a remarkable feat when the game was first played, was as strong as was that of Williams.

**Amherst Celebrates Victory.**

The report of the victory reached Amherst about 11 o'clock that night, brought by special messengers, who, through the principal messengers, were shouting "Amherst runs—73 to 32." Tired of waiting for the report and fearful that their team had been defeated, the Amherst students had gone to bed, but it could not be so. The news of their victory was a great relief, and a delegation was soon organized to ask President Stearns to make a general celebration. The president of the college was out of town, but the permission for the celebration was given by his daughter, who assumed all responsibility, saying graciously that such an important event would be a great honor to the college.

**How Game Was Criticized.**

The "criticism" of the game, as printed in the Franklin and Hampshire Gazette, is amusing reading for sport writers and sport men readers of the Gazette. It is a very good example of the criticism of a game, and it is a very good example of the criticism of a game.

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# Chess Off-Season To Be Shortened

**Interesting Golf Notes From the Local Clubs.**

Tomorrow will be one of the biggest golf days of the local year, as fully 2,000 followers of the "royal and ancient game" will enter the events provided by the various clubs. As was stated in these columns last Sunday, Chevy Chase will have the event, with prizes, as follows: For low net score at thirty-six holes, medal play; for best score against par made by members having handicaps of twelve strokes and under, and for best score against par made by members having handicaps at thirteen strokes and more, the latter two to be at eighteen holes. Bannockburn will hold a miniature tournament which will be completed by 4 p. m. and the Chevy Chase Suburban Club has announced "Scotch foursomes." The programs for Columbia and the Washington Country Club have been changed, the former having announced that it will hold four holes and the latter has decided to substitute a miniature tournament for the "scotch foursomes" first announced. To be held at Chevy Chase, the local courses should all be crowded, as there will be no counter attraction to be had at either of the local courses, as was the case Decoration day.

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